Claims:

1. A computer entity comprising:

at least one data processor;

a data storage device;

a user interface;

at least one operating system for controlling operation of said computer entity;

a first license key data, said first license key data allowing partitioning of said data storage device to provide a first amount of licensed data storage capacity, wherein said first amount of data storage capacity is lower than a total amount of data storage capacity of said data storage device,

said license key data comprising an upgrade flag data, said upgrade flag data determining whether or not said partitioned data storage capacity can be increased or not; and

a partition size control component configured to read said upgrade flag data and for determining whether an upgrade of said license data storage capacity can occur or not.

2. The computer entity as claimed in claim 1, wherein said partition size control component comprises:

a component for detecting said upgrade flag data; and

a component for storing an upgrade license key data on said data storage device.

3. The computer entity as claimed in claim 1, wherein said partition size control component comprises:

a component for checking a validity of an upgrade license key data.

4. The computer entity as claimed in claim 1, wherein said partition size control component comprises:

a component for checking whether an existing upgrade license key data is already stored on said data storage device.

5. The computer entity as claimed in claim 1, wherein said partition size control component comprises:

a component for reading a licensed upgrade data storage capacity allowed by an upgrade license key data.

6. The computer entity as claimed in claim 1, wherein said partition size control component comprises:

a component for comparing whether an existing license key data stored on said data storage device allows a capacity upgrade greater than a new upgrade capacity license key data requested to be entered onto said data storage device.

7. A method of controlling an amount of licensed functionality provided by a computer entity by controlling a licensed partition size, said computer entity comprising:

at least one data processor;

a data storage device;

a user interface;

at least one operating system for controlling operation of said computer entity;

said method comprising the steps of:

storing a first license key data, said first license key data allowing partitioning of said data storage device to provide a first amount of data storage capacity, wherein said first amount of data storage capacity is lower than a total amount of data storage capacity of said data storage device,

said license key data comprising an upgrade flag data, said upgrade flag data determining whether or not said license data storage capacity can be increased or not; and

determining whether an upgrade of said licensed data storage capacity can occur or not by reading said upgrade flag data.

8. The method as claimed in claim 7, wherein said step of determining whether an upgrade of capacity can occur comprises:

detecting said upgrade flag data; and

storing an upgrade license key data on said data storage device.

9. The method as claimed in claim 7, wherein said first license key data is stored in a data storage area outside a partition used for storing said operating system, and outside said allowed partition providing said first amount of data storage capacity.

10. The method as claimed in claim 7, comprising the step of:

checking a validity of an upgrade license key data by comparing a unique identifier data comprising said upgrade license key data with a unique identifier data read from a component of said computer entity.

11. The method as claimed in claim 7, comprising the steps of:

receiving a new upgrade license key data requested to be entered onto said data storage device;

checking whether an existing upgrade license key data is already stored on said data storage device;

if an existing said upgrade license key data is already stored on said data storage device, comparing whether said existing license key data allows a capacity upgrade greater than a new upgrade capacity specified by said new upgrade license key data requested to be entered onto said data storage device.

12. A method of providing functionality upgrades to a plurality of computer entity after manufacture, said method comprising the steps of:

storing data uniquely describing said computer entity in a database;

receiving a request to modify a functionality of said computer entity;

checking from said data stored in said database whether said computer entity is capable of modification of functionality;

if said data in said database describes said computer entity as being capable of modification of functionality, then providing an upgrade license key data for enabling modification of said functionality of said computer entity.

13. The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein said upgrade license key data comprises:

data uniquely identifying a computer entity to which said upgrade license key applies;

data defining an amount of data storage capacity which said computer entity can access for use by applications.

14. The method as claimed in claim 12, further comprising the step of:

storing a data in said database describing a licensed data storage capacity of said computer entity.

15. A license key data comprising:

data uniquely identifying a computer entity;

data defining an amount of data storage capacity licensed for use by said computer entity.

16. The license key data as claimed in claim 15, further comprising:

data describing a model description of said computer entity.

17. A method of operating a computer entity for applying a modification of licensed functionality provided by said computer entity, said computer entity comprising at least one operating system and a data storage device, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a first level of functionality according to a first license data stored on a disk sector of said data storage device inaccessible to said operating system;

modifying said licensed functionality provided by said computer entity according to a second license data stored on said data storage device.

18. The method as claimed in claim 17, further comprising the step of:

comparing a first unique identifier data stored on said computer entity and uniquely identifying said computer entity, with a second unique identifier data comprising said second license data;

if said first and second identifier data correspond, then permitting modification of said functionality provided by said computer entity according to said data stored as second license data.

19. The method as claimed in claim 17, wherein said modifiable functionality comprises data storage capacity.

20. The method as claimed in claim 17, wherein said modifiable functionality comprises data storage capacity, and further comprising the steps of:

determining a present configuration of said data storage device;

comparing said present configuration of said data storage device with a licensed configuration described by data comprising said second license data;

if a match is found between said present configuration and said licensed configuration, then allowing said computer entity to operate.

21. The method as claimed in claim 17, wherein said modifiable functionality comprises data storage capacity, and further comprising the steps of:

determining a present configuration of said data storage device;

comparing said present configuration of said data storage device with a licensed configuration described by data comprising said second license data;

if said present configuration of said data storage device does not match said licensed configuration of said data storage device, then prohibiting further boot procedures of said computer entity; and

displaying an error condition.